

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----111456Z 005266 /47

R 111337Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2933
INFO AAMCONSUL LENINGRAD 8619
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 0424

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET HARASSMENT OF THE CSCE MONITORING GROUP

REF: MOSCOW 00146

1. SUMMARY: ORLOV AND GINSBURG REMAIN AT LIBERTY, AL-
THOUGH THE LATTER HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED FOR PNEUMONIA.
ALEKSEYEVA HAS GIVEN US A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF HER APART-
MENT SEARCH AND SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO THE PROCURACY, AS
WELL AS HER ANALYSIS OF REGIME TACTICS. ANOTHER DISSIDENT
SOURCE BELIEVES THE AUTHORITIES INTEND TO FORCE ORLOV AND
GINSBURG TO EMIGRATE. END SUMMARY.

2. DISSIDENT SOURCES HAVE PROVIDED US WITH FOLLOWING
INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET HARRASSMENT OF UNOFFICIAL GROUP
FORMED TO MONITOR SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH CSCE FINAL ACT
(ORLOV GROUP):

--GROUP CHAIRMAN ORLOV, AFTER REFUSING TO APPEAR
AT PROCURATOR'S OFFICE MORNING OF JANUARY 7, STAYED IN
HIS APARTMENT FOR FEAR OF BEING ARRESTED BY A CARLOAD
OF KGB PLAINCLOTHESMEN WHO HAD ORLOV'S APARTMENT UNDER
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SURVEILLANCE; WE UNDERSTAND ORLOV VENTURED OUTSIDE ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, WITHOUT INCIDENT;

-- GROUP MEMBER ALEKSANDR GINSBURG ALSO REFUSED TO
APPEAR AT PROCURATOR'S OFFICE JANUARY 7, AND TOOK REFUGE
IN APARTMENT OF ANDREY SAKHAROV. GAINSBURG, WHO IS IN
POOR HEALTH, CONTRACTED SERIOUS CASE OF PNEUMONIA

SHORTLY AFTER HIS APARTMENT WAS SEARCHED LAST WEEK AND HAS NOW BEEN HOSPITALIZED;

-- THE THIRD GROUP MEMBER WHOSE APARTMENT WAS SEARCHED, LYUDA ALEKSEYEVA, DID SHOW UP AT THE PROCURATOR'S OFFICE ON FRIDAY, AS REQUESTED; SHE REFUSED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS HOWEVER, AND WAS RELEASED WITHOUT INCIDENT BUT INSTRUCTED TO RETURN ON JANUARY 10.

3. WE OBTAINED A FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT OF ALEKSEYEVA'S EXPERIENCES THROUGH THE EVENING OF JANUARY 7 WHEN SHE UNEXPECTEDLY TURNED UP AT A CHRISTMAS DINNER (ACCORDING TO THE OLD RUSSIAN CALENDER) AT THE HOME OF MUTUAL SOVIET ACQUAINTANCES THAT EVENING. SHE TOLD US THAT:

-- THE SEARCH OF HER APARTMENT BEGAN WHILE SHE WAS OUT; THE SEARCHERS WERE POLITE WHEN SHE RETURNED, UNTIL ALEKSEYEVA, AN EXTRAORDINARILY SELF-CONFIDENT AND ASSERTIVE INDIVIDUAL, NOTICES THAT THE OFFICIAL LIST OF ITEMS BEING CONFISCATED WAS (INCORRECTLY" FORMULATED (AT TYPICAL ENTRY, SHE SAID, BEGAN WITH THE OPENING WORDS OF THE CONFISCATED DOCUMENT'S FIRST PAGE AND THEN WOULD SAY THAT THE DOCUMENT CONSISTED OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PAGES);

--WHEN THE SEARCHERS PAID NO ATTENTION TO HER PROTESTS THAT A LIST FORMULATED IN THIS WAY WOULD ALLOW THE SUBSTITUTION OF PAGES ONCE THE MATERIAL WAS OUT OF HER CONTROL, SHE COMPOSED AND SIGNED A WRITTEN PROTEST, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND LEFT;

-- SHE SAID THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS AND SAMIZDAT IN HER FLAT (WE GATHER SHE HAD A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT ON HAND) WAS CONFISCATED, INCLUDING A COPY (THE ONLY ONE IN HER POSSESSION) OF A NTS NEWSPAPER; SHE HAD SEVERAL COPIES OF TIME, NEWSWEEK, AND THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, WHICH WERE NOT TAKEN; SHE INSISTED THAT SHE HAD NO TIES WITH THE NTS;

--WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ON JANUARY 7 SHE WAS INTERVIEWED BY AN INVESTIGATOR WHO, SHE SAID, WAS INEXPERIENCED AND POORLY BRIEFED. SHE INFORMED HIM SHE WOULD REFUSE TO ANSWER HIS QUESTION FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, THE LIST OF CONFISCATED ITEMS HAD BEEN IMPROPERLY EXECUTED. SECOND, THE CASE WAS NOT AGAINST HER BUT AGAINST THE ORLOV GROUP AS A WHOLE; THIS WAS "PROVEN" BY THE USE OF THE SAME CASE NUMBER IN THE APARTMENT SEARCHES OF GROUP MEMBERS IN KIEV AND IN

MOSCOW;

-- WHEN SHE SIGNED A DOCUMENT EXPLAINING WHY SHE WAS UNWILLING TO COOPERATE, THE INVESTIGATOR ASKED HER "OFF THE RECORD" ABOUT THE AIMS OF THE ORLOV GROUP AND THE NATURE OF ITS MEMBERSHIP; IN RESPONSE TO HER INTERPRETATION OF THE FINAL ACT, THE GROUP'S PURPOSE, ITS STYLE OF OPERATION (WHICH IS ENTIRELY OPEN), AND THE FACT THAT IT CONSISTED OF SEVEN MEMBERS, THE INVESTIGATOR REPORTEDLY ASKED WITH GENUINE PUZZLEMENT HOW ONLY SEVEN PEOPLE COULD COPE WITH SUCH AN ENORMOUS TASK.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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4. ALE SEYEVA IS CONVINCED THAT THE PRIME TARGET OF THIS CURRENT ROUND OF HARRASSMENT IS GINSBURG, WHO FORMERLY WORKED AS SOLZHENITSYN'S PERSONAL SECRETARY AND WHO PRESENTLY WORKS FOR SAKHAROV IN THE SAME CAPACITY. GINSBURG SPECIALIZES IN RELIGIOUS DISSENT AND POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND IS KNOWN TO BE IN CHARGE OF A FUND ESTABLISHED BY SOLZHENITZYN TO AID POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE USSR. HE HAS SERVED ONE TERM IN PRISON CAMP FOR "ANTI-SOVIET ACTIVITIES" IN CONNECTION WITH HIS PROTEST OF THE TRIAL OF SINYAVSKIY AND DANIEL BUT IS NOT WELL KNOWN IN THE WEST. HE IS ALSO VULNERABLE IN THAT HE HAS TWO SMALL CHILDREN AND THAT HIS WIFE, A UNIVERSITY-TRAINED SPECIALIST IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT IN HER SPECIALITY. IN ADDITION, HE SUFFERS FROM BAD HEALTH, AS DOES HIS WIFE, AND IS NOT LEGALLY RESIDENT IN MOSCOW ALTHOUGH HE IN FACT LIVES HERE.

5. ALEKSEYEVA NOTES THAT ORLOV IS A PROMINENT SOVIET PHYSICIST KNOWN OUTSIDE OF THE USSR FOR HIS SCIENTIFIC WORK (HE CONTINUES TO BE A CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ARMENIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES) AND HAS ALSO BECOME KNOWN IN THE WEST THROUGH HIS MEMBERSHIP IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.
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TIONAL AND ESPECIALLY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CSCE GROUP. SHE IS CONVINCED THAT ONLY THE PRESSURE OF WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION CAN SAVE GINSBURG AND ORLOV FROM FURTHER HARASSMENT AND EVENTUAL ARREST.

6. WE SHOULD ADD, FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, THAT ANOTHER PROMINENT MOSCOW DISSIDENT, UNOFFICIAL ARTIST YOSIF KIBLITSKIY, HAS TOLD US HE IS CONVINCED SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE BUILDING A CASE AGAINST ORLOV AND GINSBURG IN ORDER TO FORCE THEM TO EMIGRATE. WITH ACTIVISTS ORLOV, GINSBURG AND ALEKSEYEVA REMOVED FROM THE SCENE, THE AUTHORITIES WOULD HOPE TO ELIMINATE THE TROUBLESOME CSCE MONITORING GROUP ONCE AND FOR ALL.

7. COMMENT. KIBLITSKIY'S ANALYSIS MAY PROVE CLOSE TO THE MARK. THE TACTIC OF FORCING EMIGRATION WOULD BE IN LINE WITH SOVIET ACTION IN THE AMALRIK CASE AND WOULD FOLLOW THE PATTERN OF THE SOLZHENITSYN, PLYUSHCH, AND BUKHOVSKIY CASES, IN WHICH THE SOVIETS APPARENTLY ATTEMPTED TO RID THEMSELVES OF IRRITATING PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS BY EXPELLING THE "FOREIGN OBJECT". WHILE THE STAGING OF A SHOW TRIAL AGAINST GINSBURG OR ORLOV CANNOT BE RULED OUT, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THE SOVIETS WOULD BE PREPARED TO STIR UP WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION BY SUCH A DRAMATIC MOVE, WITH LESS THAN SIX MONTHS UNTIL THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE. IN ANY EVENT, SOVIET AUTHORITIES CLEARLY WILL BE ASSESSING CAREFULLY

THE EFFECT OF THIS LATEST HARASSMENT UPON THE ORLOV GROUP MEMBERS AS WELL AS UPON PUBLIC OPINION ABROAD.
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